



# Northern California CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Pilot



## Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships Initiative Review Meeting

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
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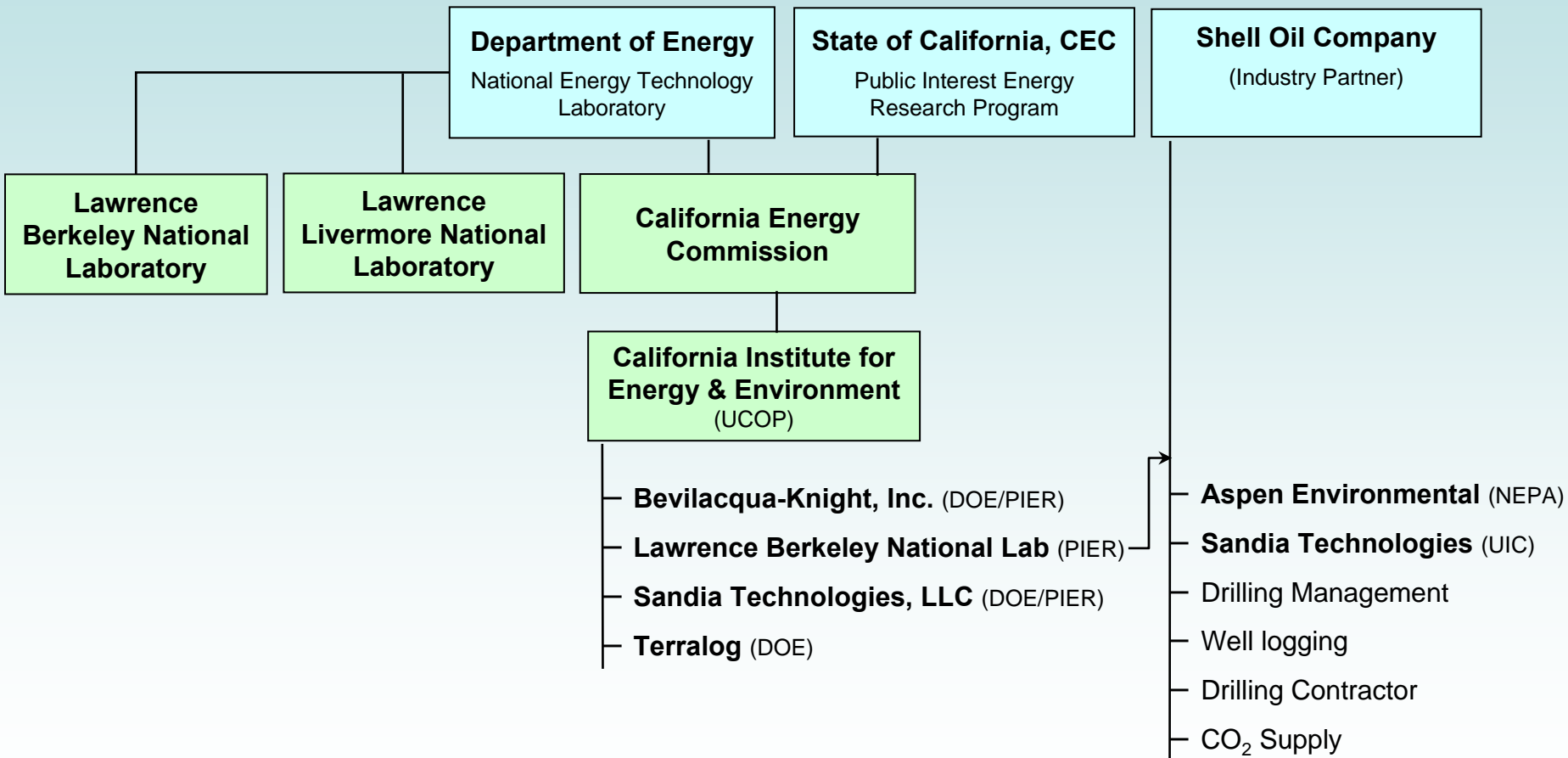


# Industry Partner: Shell Oil Company

## A welcome industry partner

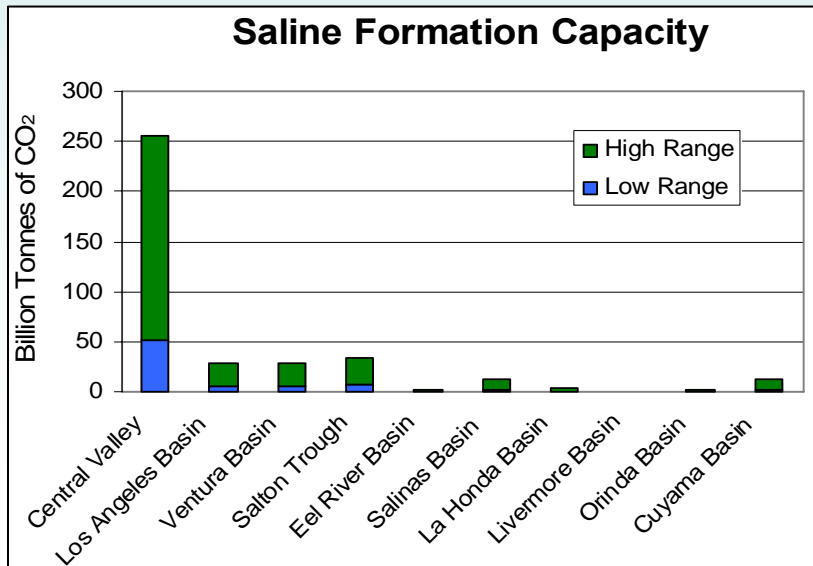
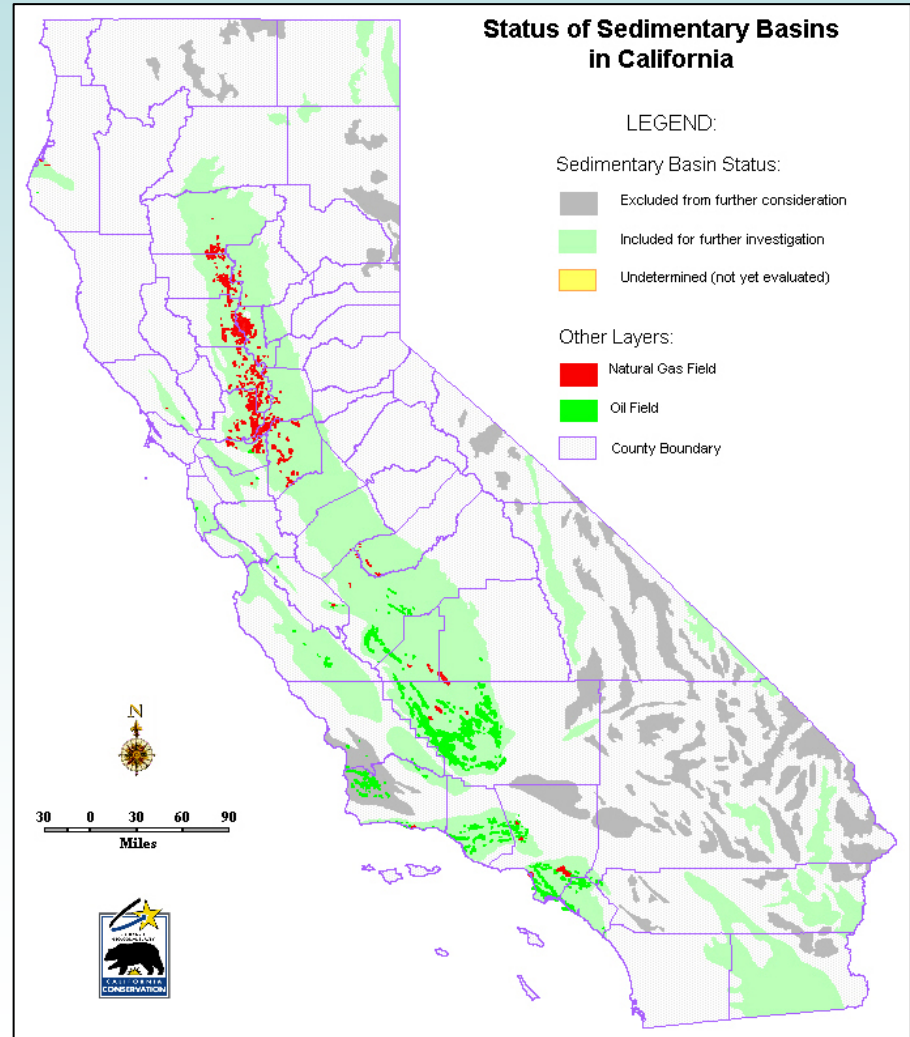
- Committed to reducing global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Extensive technical expertise in:
  - Geologic evaluation
  - Well log analysis
  - Porosity and permeability evaluation
  - Geophysics
  - Deep well drilling
  - CO<sub>2</sub> injection

# Northern California CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Pilot Contracting and Funding Flow



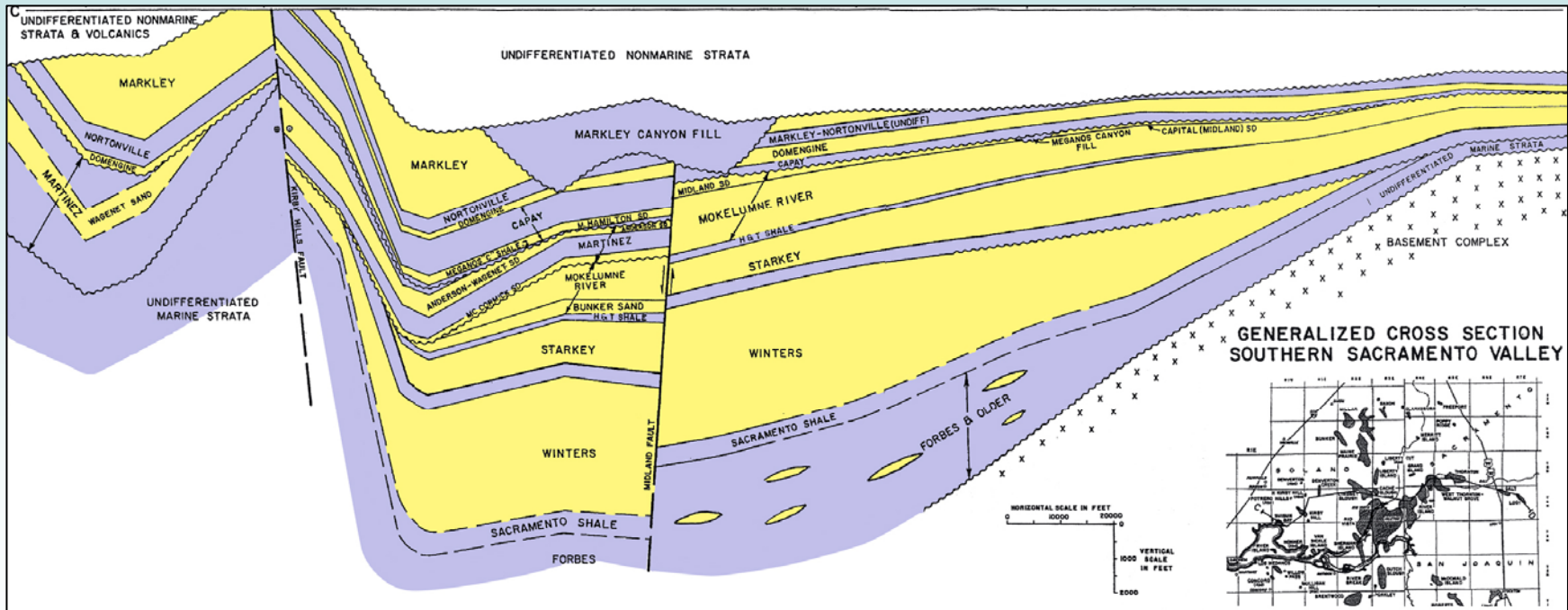
# WESTCARB Phase I – Preliminary estimate of CO<sub>2</sub> storage capacity in California

- Oil reservoirs – 121 fields
  - 3.4 billion tonnes
- Gas reservoirs – 128 fields
  - 1.8 billion tonnes
- Saline formations – 27 basins
  - 75-300 billion tonnes



# Sacramento Valley geologic cross-section

Numerous stacked sandstone (yellow) and shale (purple) formations



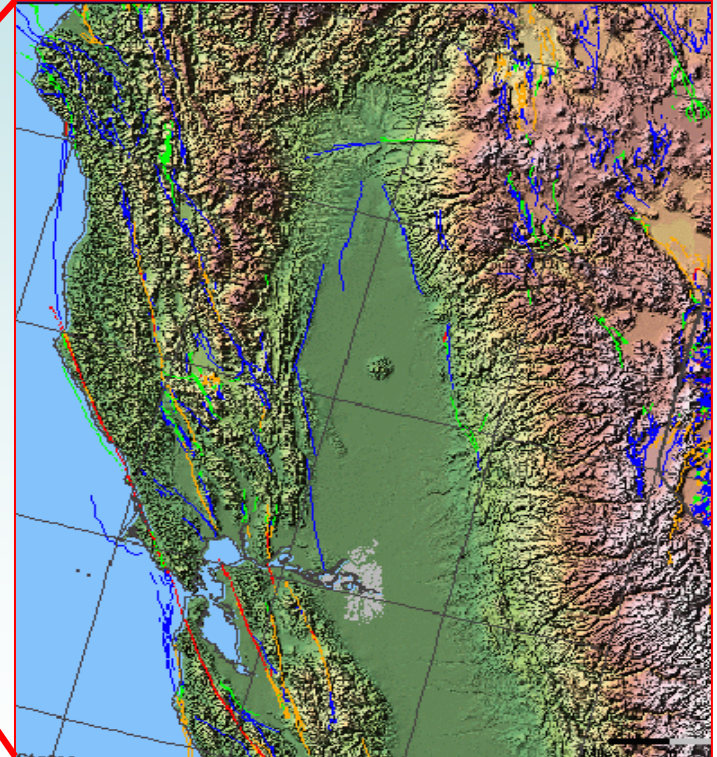
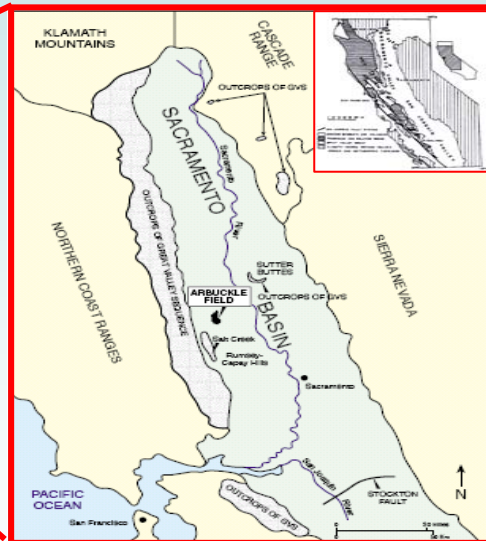
Source: California Geological Survey



# Western Sacramento Valley Location

## Viable Pilot Test Site

- Capacity to trap CO<sub>2</sub> is adequate for planned volume
- Leak potential is low due to scarcity of faults and old wells; thick, multiple shale seals
- Terrain and land ownership appears to be favorable



## Uncertain issues to be determined

- Salinity possibly ~10,000 ppm in shallower sandstones
- Permeability uncertainty at injection depth – axis of syncline is very deep
- Sand continuity in the syncline is unknown

Source: Shell

# Northern California CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Pilot

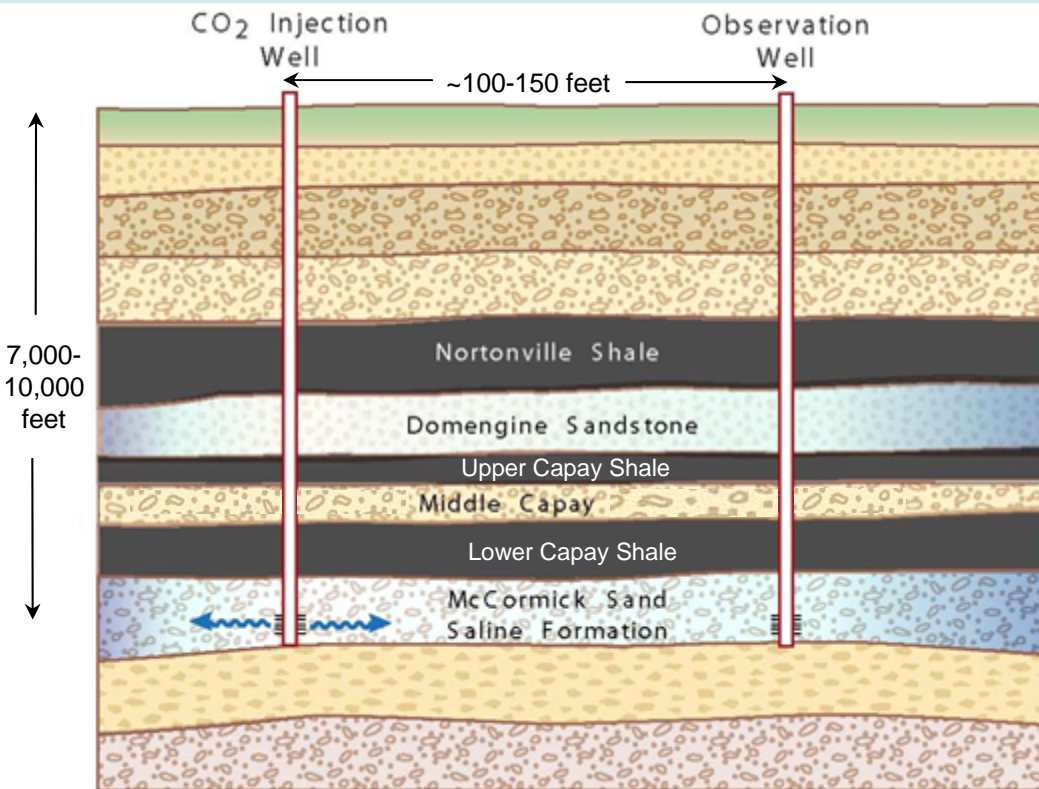
## Site Geologic Attributes

- Multiple seals
- High permeability saline reservoir



## Field Operations

- Drill two wells penetrating reservoir
- Inject 2,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> into a saline formation
- Assess injectivity and storage capacity
- Monitor subsurface CO<sub>2</sub> movement
- Test for leakage



Representative cross-section

# Pilot Objectives

**Identify  
Pilot  
Test  
Objectives**



**Rank  
Objectives**

- Scientific
- Public
- Industry
- Likelihood  
of Success

- Determine the injectivity of the reservoir
- Estimate the storage capacity of the reservoir
- Model and monitor the trapping of the injected CO<sub>2</sub>
- Assess and maintain seal integrity
- Demonstrate safe storage of CO<sub>2</sub> in a saline sandstone beneath a shale seal in northern California
- Develop, calibrate, and validate multiphase flow models for CO<sub>2</sub> injection in the Sacramento Valley



# Pilot Project Test Plan

- Model CO<sub>2</sub> injection and CO<sub>2</sub> movement
- Assess injectivity and injection pressure with step-rate injection test
- Assess storage capacity
- Use tracers to assess supercritical and dissolved phases of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Monitor subsurface CO<sub>2</sub> movement using time-lapse VSP and cross-well seismic
- Run Reservoir Saturation Tool (RST) logs to monitor near wellbore
- Use a Distributed Thermal Perturbation Sensor to monitor CO<sub>2</sub> near wells
- Monitor CO<sub>2</sub> at surface near wells
- Validate models

**Identify  
Measurement  
and  
Monitoring  
Approaches**



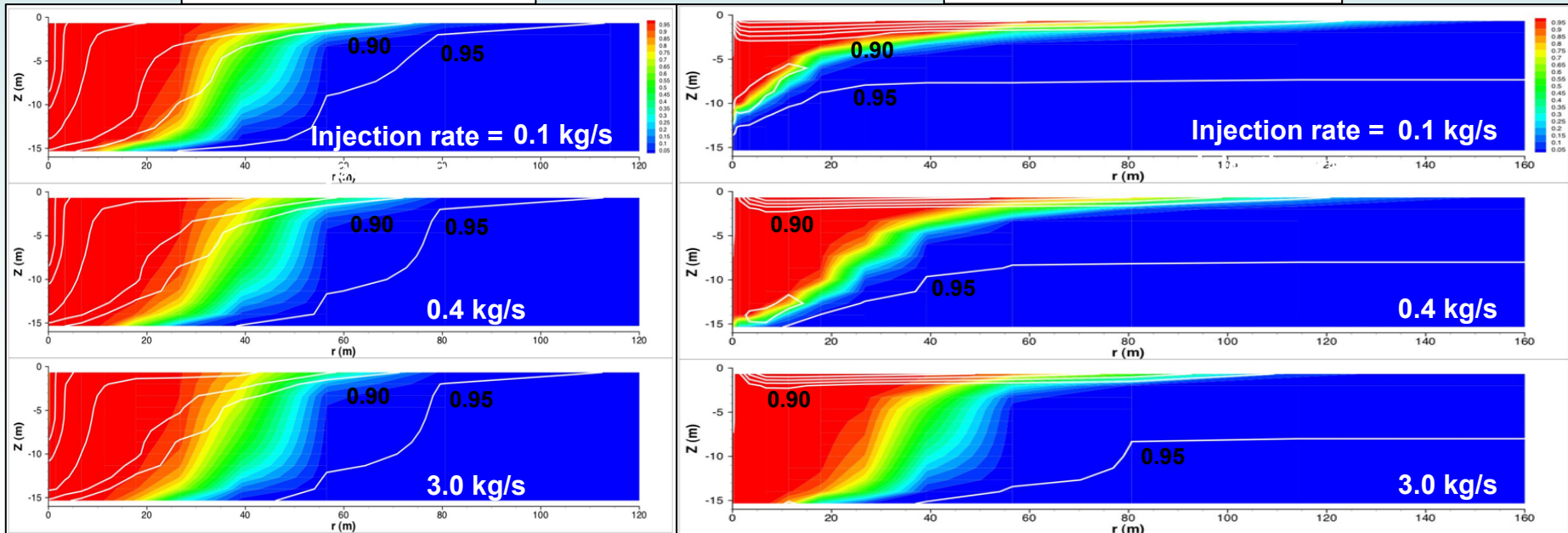
**Prioritize  
Pilot  
Program  
Test Plan**

# TOUGH2\* simulation of CO<sub>2</sub> injection into saline reservoir

- CO<sub>2</sub> plume 1 year after injection of 2,000 tonnes
- High residual water saturation:  $S_w = 95\%$ ,  $S_g = 5\%$
- Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> is buoyant; displaces water
- Sensitive to injection rate only at high permeability

Permeability = 50 mD

Permeability = 1,000 mD



Color contours: Weight % CO<sub>2</sub> in supercritical (gaseous) phase. White contours: Water saturation ( $1 - S_g$ ).

# U-Tube System for fluid and tracer sampling

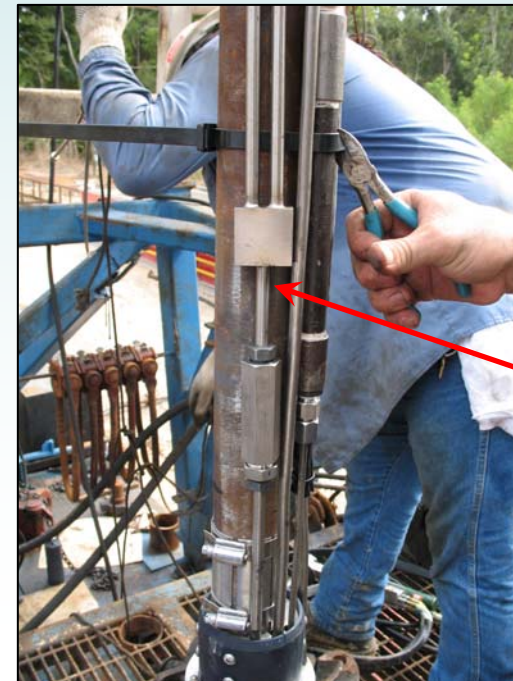
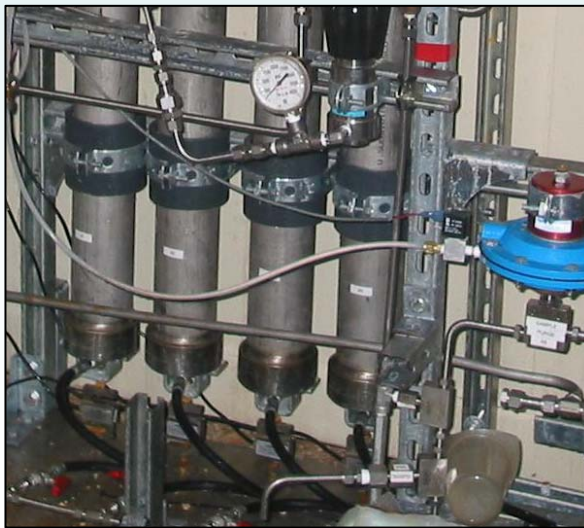
pH, Ec,  
temperature  
monitors

Pressure  
control  
valves



Control  
room

Sample  
collection  
chambers



U-tube and check  
valve strapped to  
production tubing

Source: B. Freifeld, LBNL



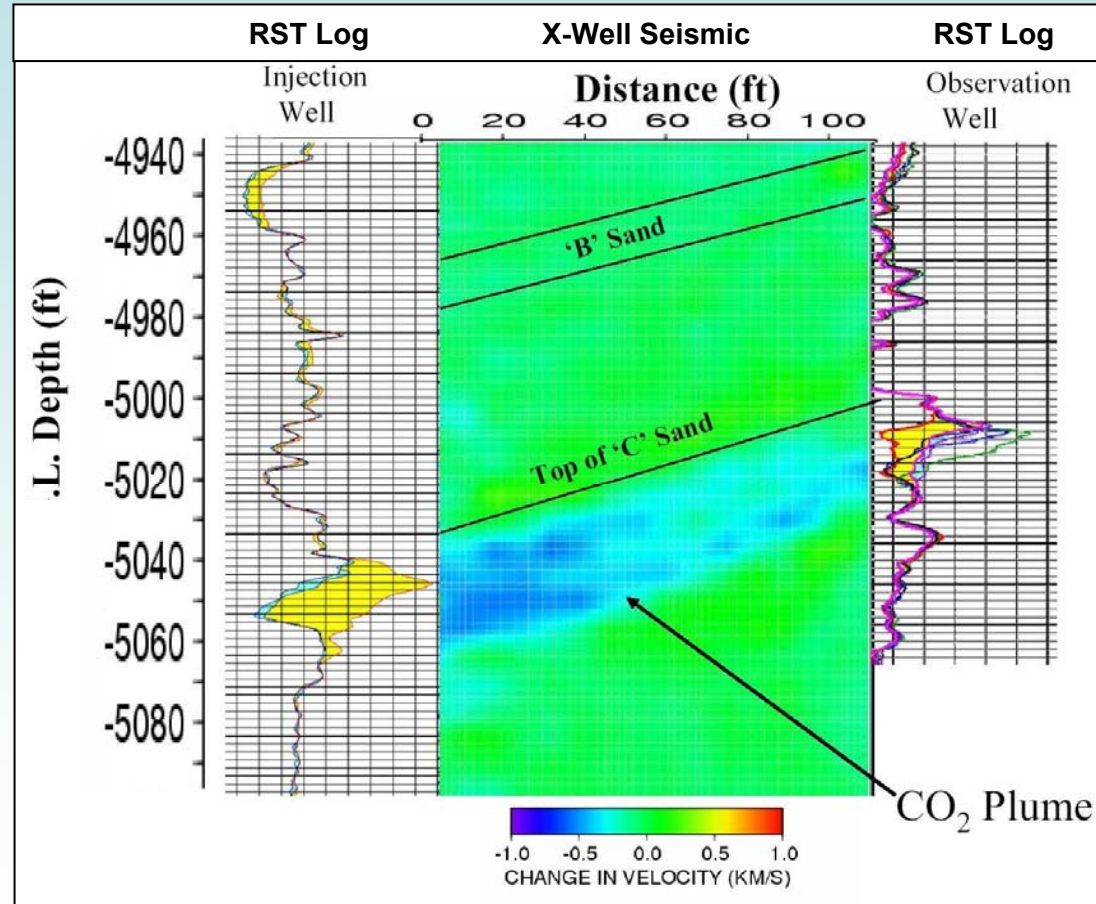
# Monitoring the CO<sub>2</sub>

## Seismic imaging

- Time lapse VSP
- Time lapse crosswell
- Controlled-Source Active Seismic Monitoring (CASSM)
- Correlate seismic with fluid and tracer samples obtained with U-tube

## Time lapse Reservoir Saturation Tool (RST)\* log

\* Schlumberger tool that measures thermal neutron absorption to infer water saturation, and C/O ratio with an induced gamma ray spectrometer.



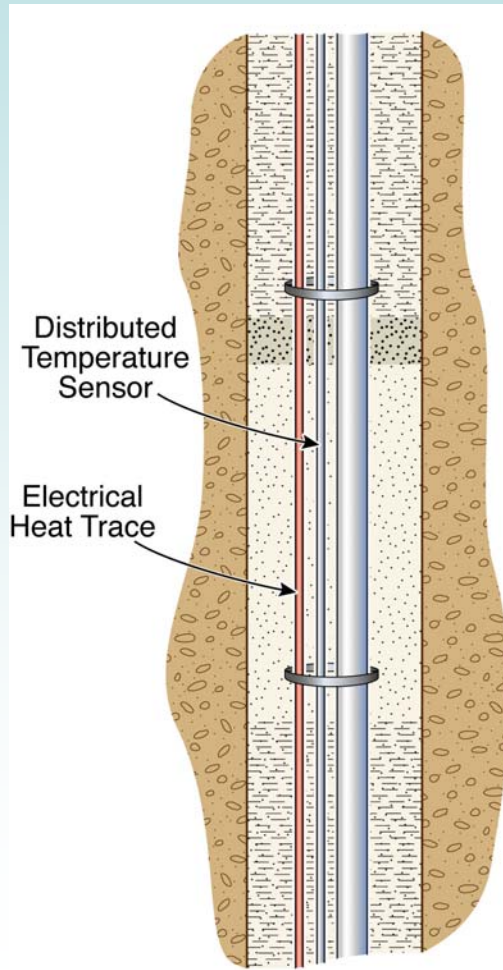
Frio Brine CO<sub>2</sub> Pilot, Texas

Source: T. Daley, LBNL



# Distributed Thermal Perturbation Sensor (DTPS) for tracking CO<sub>2</sub> migration in the subsurface

Thermal conductivity measurements during and after CO<sub>2</sub> injection monitor the distribution of CO<sub>2</sub> near the well



- The DTPS consists of a borehole-length electrical resistance heater and fiber optic distributed temperature sensor.
- Constant heating is applied along the borehole, then is turned off. The temperature sensor measures the decay.
- The low thermal conductivity of CO<sub>2</sub> versus water allows for estimates of CO<sub>2</sub> saturation.
- The DTPS has been successfully tested at the CO<sub>2</sub>SINK project in Germany.

Source: Barry Freifeld, LBNL

# Regulatory Agencies & Permits

- Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit: US EPA, Region 9 – Class V, Experimental
- Drilling permit: County agency  
(CA Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources if in oil/gas field)
- NEPA: DOE Environmental Questionnaire
- CEQA: Lead state or local agency; CEC approval

# Agreements & Contracts

- Surface owner
- Adjacent surface owners for VSP source points
- Mineral rights owner
- Mineral rights leaseholder
- Pore space owner (not decided in California)
- Agreement with project partner – site access, liability, IP
- Contracts with subcontractors and suppliers

# Public Outreach

- Inform state and local agencies and political leaders
- Press releases
- State-wide and local information
- Public meetings
- Input on test plans and monitoring

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## PUBLIC MEETING

### Storing Carbon Dioxide to Fight Global Warming: California Saline Reservoir Storage Test

#### Purpose

This informational meeting is being held to discuss plans for a research project to test "carbon sequestration," a promising new technology that can keep carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) away from the atmosphere to curb global warming. Also known as CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage, carbon sequestration involves adding gas separation equipment at large industrial facilities, such as power plants, refineries, and cement plants, to remove CO<sub>2</sub> that would otherwise be emitted with flue gases. The "captured" CO<sub>2</sub> is compressed and injected about 1/4 of a mile underground into suitable geologic formations for long-term storage.

Depleted oil and gas reservoirs and similar formations filled with saltwater that cannot be made potable, such as those prevalent in the Delta, are excellent candidates for safe and secure CO<sub>2</sub> storage. As a potential co-benefit, new natural gas may be produced in conjunction with the CO<sub>2</sub> injection.

**Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting to learn and ask questions about our proposed project. [Please see our Q & A section on the back of this announcement.]**

#### LOCATION

Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center  
13501 Franklin Boulevard  
Galt, CA 95632  
Visitor Center phone: 916-684-2816

The Cosumnes Visitor Center is located between Galt and Thornton on Franklin Boulevard, 1.7 miles south of Twin Cities Road. For help with directions, visit [www.cosumnes.org](http://www.cosumnes.org) or call the Visitor Center.



[westcarb.org](http://westcarb.org)

WEST COAST REGIONAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION PARTNERSHIP

